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MAY 27 2005  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

In response to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission request, Alliance Communications would share the following information in the revised Lifeline & Link-Up program.

As an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, Alliance Communications has added new the eligibility requirements as well as new certification and verification procedures to the Lifeline and Link-Up Program for our exchanges.

Alliance Communications created one simple piece that explains the program and the form that would have to be filled out to receive the benefits of the Lifeline & Link-Up program. Attachment A is the promotional brochure and Lifeline & Link-Up form that a customer fills out. These forms are available in all the Alliance Communications offices and are also inserted in the New Customer packet that every new customer receives.

Alliance Communications advertises once a year in a newspaper that in many cases is distributed free of charge to every household in the exchange. The following is a list of the free newspapers by exchange: Baltic - Baltic Beacon, Brandon & Valley Springs - Brandon Valley Challenger, Crooks - Colton Shopper and in Garretson - Garretson Weekly. The following is a list of the subscription newspapers by exchange: Alcester & Hudson - Alcester Union and in Howard, Oldham & Ramona - Miner County Pioneer. Attachment B is a copy of the advertisement that was run one time in our local papers last year. This advertisement will be placed one time in our local papers in October 2005.

Alliance Communications has changed its eligibility requirements to reflect the new changes in the Lifeline & Link-Up program. The new programs include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), National School Lunch (NSL) free lunch program and 135% Household income at or below Federal Poverty Guidelines. TANF and NSL have been added to the list of eligible programs like Food Stamps, Medicare, SSI, Federal Public Housing Assistance and Low Income Home Energy Assistance. Household Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Guidelines requires some form of documentation from the participant.

*Speak and you'll be heard.*

The consumer must provide at enrollment a prior year's tax return, a current income statement from an employer or paycheck stub, a Social Security statement of benefits, a Veterans Administration statement of benefits, a retirement/pension statement of benefits, Unemployment/Workmen's Compensations statement of benefits, federal or tribal notice of letter of participation in General Assistance, a divorce decree, child support or other official document. If the consumer presents documentation that does not cover a full year, such as pay stubs, the consumer is required to present three consecutive months worth of the same types of documentation within that calendar year. In addition, an appointed officer of Alliance Communications will certify, under the penalty of perjury that procedures are in place to review income documentation. And to the best of the officer's knowledge, the documentation presented that the consumer's income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Attachment C is a chart of the Federal Poverty income Guidelines by the number of members in the household.

Alliance Communications will annually verify the continued eligibility of a statistically valid sample of the Lifeline-Link-Up subscribers. The surveyed subscriber must prove their continued eligibility (e.g. by sending a copy of their Medicare card or a tax return) and self certify the number of members in the family and that the documentation accurately represents their annual household income. Any subscriber that does not respond in 60 days will not be eligible for the program and will be removed. Alliance Communications will report to USAC the number of subscribers surveyed, the number of subscribers found ineligible and the number of subscribers that did not respond to the survey. Attachment D is the form that was sent with an addressed and stamped return envelope to the statistically valid sample of subscribers. Alliance Communications plans in 2006 to survey all Lifeline & Link-Up subscribers to verify continued eligibility.

Attachment A

# NOTICE TO ALL ALLIANCE COMMUNICATIONS CUSTOMERS

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in low-income assistance programs. Low-income subscribers may qualify to receive reduced monthly and installation charges for basic telephone service. Details regarding Lifeline, Link-Up and the Telephone Assistance Program are included in this notice.

If you qualify, you may complete the enclosed application form and return it to our office at:

Alliance Communications  
P.O. Box 349  
Garretson, SD 57030

**It is required in signing and submitting the application that you certify under penalty of perjury that you, in fact, qualify for Lifeline, Link-Up or TAP benefits, and if you become ineligible, you will notify Alliance Communications.**

Please read this material carefully. If you have any questions regarding these programs, please call Alliance Communications by dialing 811.

## LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Alliance Communications is authorized to provide three federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens.

- The **Lifeline** program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.
- The **Link-Up** program provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.
- The **Telephone Assistance Program** provides a monthly discount on telephone service for Minnesota residents who qualify.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Telephone service must be in the applicant's name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

Food Stamps

Federal Housing Assistance

Low Income Home Energy Assistance

Medicaid

Minnesota Family Investment Program

National School Lunch Program

Minnesota Family Investment Program

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

National School Lunch Program

Have an income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

## WHAT DO THE PROGRAMS PROVIDE?

**Lifeline** provides eligible subscribers with a credit each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The credit applies on the main telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone at no charge.

**Link-Up** provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for their basic home telephone service. This reduction is 50 percent of the applicable charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. Link-Up also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside your home and is limited to one time per home address per subscriber.

The **Telephone Assistance Program (TAP)** is available for Minnesota residents and is designed to make telephone service accessible to qualifying low-income residential households. Through this program, eligible households will receive a monthly discount on their telephone service.

## **HOW DO I APPLY?**

If you meet the eligibility requirements, completely fill out and sign the application form provided and mail it to:

Alliance Communications  
P.O. Box 349  
Garretson, SD 57030

## **COULD I BECOME INELIGIBLE?**

When you no longer participate in any of the qualifying public assistance programs, you are no longer eligible for Lifeline, Link-Up or TAP. You are obligated by law to advise Alliance Communications that you are ineligible.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you have questions about Lifeline, Link-Up or TAP, the application form or your telephone service, contact Alliance Communications by dialing 811 for more information.

## Lifeline, Link-Up and TAP Assistance Application

(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Telephone Number (if existing service): (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Number where you can be reached or receive messages: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions (*check appropriate lines*):

1. I am applying for:

- Lifeline** monthly telephone service discount  
 **Link-Up** telephone connection charge discount  
 **TAP** monthly telephone service discount for Minnesota residents

Note: Telephone service **MUST** be in applicant's name.

2. I am currently participating in the following program(s):

*Check all that apply.*

- National School Lunch Program  
 Medicaid (e.g. Title XIX/Medical, State Supplemental Assistance)  
 Food Stamps  
 Supplemental Security Income (SSI)  
 Federal Public Housing Assistance  
 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance  
 Temporary Assistance for Needy Family or Minnesota Family Investment Program

**I agree to notify Alliance Communications when I no longer participate in any of the above qualifying public assistance programs.**

**I certify under the penalty of perjury that the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand i must meet the above qualifications to receive Lifeline, Link-Up and TAP assistance on my primary residential line.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTACHMENT B



effective Jan. 1, 2000, and is a result of an increase in the Federal Communications Commission's universal service fund contribution factor from 8.9 percent. The FUSC amount is calculated by multiplying the FCC's universal service contribution factor against your interstate access service charges. The Federal Universal Service fund program is designed to keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers in all areas of the United States. People who questions should call their local telephone company. Alliance Communications customers can reach the business office by dialing 811.

**ELECTRIC**  
 Madison Dispatch  
 1-800-475-3006  
 772-5816

**Commercial and Residential Wiring at Reasonable Prices**

"We Want to be Your Electrician"  
**Al Oswald . . . . . 523-2338**  
 (Al's cell phone #480-3580)  
**Jerry Winker . . . 772-5262**

## Notice to all Alliance Communications customers

Changes brought about by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 have resulted in low-income assistance programs. Alliance Communications is authorized to provide three federal telephone assistance programs that were developed in response to concerns about the affordability of telephone service for low-income citizens.

### What assistance is available?

- The **Lifeline** program provides reduced monthly charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.
- The **Link-Up** program provides reduced connection charges to telephone subscribers who qualify.
- The **Telephone Assistance Program** provides a monthly discount on telephone service for Minnesota residents who qualify.

### Who is eligible?

Telephone service must be in the applicant's name. The applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs to be eligible:

Food Stamps, Federal Housing Assistance, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, Medicaid, National School Lunch Program, Minnesota Family Investment Program, Supplemental Security Income or have an income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

**For more information** – Call Alliance Communications by dialing 811 for more information or to receive an application.

Other data assembled estimates the heritability range from 36 percent to 92 percent with an overall percent. At these levels, pelvic area is a highly heritable trait, even higher than that of calf birth weight. However, does not appear to be highly correlated with pelvic area. For pelvic size will not result in a corresponding increase in weight.

The following chart explains the use of pelvic measurements in estimating deliverable calf size (birth weight).

| Time of measurement | Heifer age, mo. | Heifer wt., lb. | Pelvic area square cm. | Pelvic birth ratio |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Before breeding     | 12-13           | 600             | 140                    | 2.1                |
|                     |                 |                 | 160                    | 2.1                |
|                     |                 |                 | 180                    | 2.1                |
| Pregnancy exam      | 18-19           | 800             | 180                    | 2.7                |
|                     |                 |                 | 200                    | 2.7                |
|                     |                 |                 | 220                    | 2.7                |

Your second and final exam question is this: amount represents the annual economic loss to beef producers from calving difficulty in their herds: A. \$100 million; B. \$250 million; C. \$500 million; D. \$750 million. The answer is B. This includes death loss, cow mortality and labor and veterinary costs. However, it also includes costs associated with decreased estrus and reduced conception rates.

Two additional losses that pelvic measurements can help reduce are that of lower weaning weights and market value of the breeding of heifers and cows to extremely light calves. Bulls simply to reduce calving difficulty.

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

On behalf of Karen and Maria here at the Extension Office, we wish you all the happiest of holidays and a very prosperous New Year.

**DEC. 21-24**  
**4 DAYS OF**  
**CAN'T MISS BARGAIN GIFTS**  
**AND**  
**CHRISTMAS CLEARANCE!**  
**FINAL 4 DAY FRENZY**

**GIFT CARDS**  
**LOW PRICES**  
**ON AVAILABLE**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**113 W. BLYE ST. SUITE 101**

**DEC. 21-24**  
**Our Biggest**  
**take an EX**  
**ENTIRE**

**Schweser's & Glaser**  
*Women's Fashions For Less!*  
**Huron, Mitchell, Yankton (G)**

ATTACHMENT C

**2004 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household At or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

| <b>Size of Family Unit</b>             | <b>48 Contiguous States &amp; DC</b> | <b>Alaska</b>   | <b>Hawaii</b>   |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>1</b>                               | <b>\$12,569</b>                      | <b>\$15,701</b> | <b>\$14,445</b> |
| <b>2</b>                               | <b>\$16,862</b>                      | <b>\$21,074</b> | <b>\$19,386</b> |
| <b>3</b>                               | <b>\$21,155</b>                      | <b>\$26,447</b> | <b>\$24,327</b> |
| <b>4</b>                               | <b>\$25,448</b>                      | <b>\$31,820</b> | <b>\$29,268</b> |
| <b>5</b>                               | <b>\$29,741</b>                      | <b>\$37,193</b> | <b>\$34,209</b> |
| <b>6</b>                               | <b>\$34,034</b>                      | <b>\$42,566</b> | <b>\$39,150</b> |
| <b>7</b>                               | <b>\$38,327</b>                      | <b>\$47,939</b> | <b>\$44,091</b> |
| <b>8</b>                               | <b>\$42,620</b>                      | <b>\$53,312</b> | <b>\$49,032</b> |
| <b>For each additional person, add</b> | <b>\$4,293</b>                       | <b>\$5,373</b>  | <b>\$4,941</b>  |

ATTACHMENT D

# Lifeline and Link-Up Rate Assistance Verification Form

Failure to return this verification within 30 days may cause the customer to no longer be eligible for this subsidy.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently receiving Low-income monthly telephone bill assistance (Lifeline) at the following:

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am currently participating in the following program(s)

Medicaid (e.g., Title XIX/Medical, State Supplement Assistance);

Food Stamps;

Supplemental Security Income;

Federal Public Housing Assistance Section 8;

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance;

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program;

National School Lunch Program's free lunch program;

My income is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

I agree to notify the telecommunications carrier if I cease to participate in any of the public assistance programs I checked above or if my income becomes greater than 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is true. I have read the information on this application and understand I must meet the above qualifications to receive assistance from these programs.

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_